

keeping, education of children, tradesmen's bills, wages of servants, charity, and incidental expenses. Now, if the physician's practice, his faculties, or his health fail, he has no resources to fall back upon; if he dies, his widow and family are left without means, perhaps in want; while his opulent neighbour, who returns £1000 a year income, pays the same income-tax—viz., £29 3s. 4d.; and, at his death, leaves £20,000, at five per cent., £25,000, at four per cent.; or, the enormous sum of £33,333 6s. 8d., at three per cent!

These matters of fact require no comment from me. I do not plead for myself; for, in addition to a lucrative practice as a surgeon, I have a few "shots in the locker;" but I do plead for the widow, the fatherless, and those who have seen "better days."—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Margate, 1848. JOSHUA WADDINGTON.

FATAL INSTANCE OF SPASM PRECEDED BY GASTRALGIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In reply to "A Provincial Surgeon's" fatal case, contained in your last number, I would suggest that, from the circumstance of his patient having previously suffered from some gastric affection symptomatic of ulceration of the mucous and other coats of the stomach, these probably ultimately gave way, giving rise to peritonitis, in consequence of the contents escaping into the peritoneal cavity. I once saw this on inspection of a case preceded by similar symptoms.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

March, 1848.

MEDICUS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The case quoted in the last number of THE LANCET, entitled, "Fatal Instance of Spasm preceded by Gastralgia," appears to admit of the following explanation, so far as we can arrive at any conclusion at all satisfactory by the help of detailed symptoms, even as clearly stated as by your correspondent, without the aid of post-mortem examination.

Death seems to have been caused in this instance from perforation of the stomach, a disease which is remarked to be by no means of unfrequent occurrence. Many cases of organic disease of this organ present cardialgia as their most prominent symptom. This young woman's attack occurring two hours after the morning meal; the epigastric pain; the abdominal tenderness and spasm of the muscles; the uselessness of remedies; the gradually sinking pulse and failing powers of life; and the time of death from her first seizure; her sex and age; all indicate perforation of the stomach.

The mere disturbance of the nervous centres, from the presence of effused matter into the peritonæum, will perhaps sufficiently account for the agonizing pain. As to that referred to the left shoulder,—was there no spinal irritation present? or was it not of a reflex character.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

London-road, 1848.

W. M. FAIRBROTHER, Surgeon.

THE CROYDON CASE.

[LETTER AND ENCLOSURE FROM DR. BERNCastle.]

Croydon, March 17th, 1848.

DR. BERNCastle presents his compliments to Mr. WAKLEY, and has forwarded to him a copy of resolutions, passed by the Union-surgeons of Cheltenham, and of their letter to him, requesting their insertion in THE LANCET. Dr. Berncastle will feel much obliged by their being inserted, according to the wish of those gentlemen, in an early number of THE LANCET.

To Thomas Wakley, Esq., M.P., &c.

[LETTER AND MEMORIAL ADDRESSED TO DR. BERNCastle.]

Albion House, Cheltenham, March 15th, 1848.

DEAR SIR,—Enclosed I beg to hand you a memorial, unanimously signed by the medical officers of this Union, and to request, if it meets with your sanction, that you will send a copy of it to THE LANCET, &c.

I am, dear Sir, yours very truly,

To Dr. Berncastle, Croydon.

W. PHILPOT BROOKES.

To Dr. Berncastle, Surgeon to the Croydon Union.

We, the undersigned medical officers to the Cheltenham Union, beg to offer you our sincere and heartfelt condolence on the late ill-treatment you have received from the Board of Guardians of the Croydon Union, who, after refusing the unfortunate woman Hopkins parochial relief, (and, as we con-

sider, most unjustly,) with the intention of disguising their own censurable conduct, endeavour to pass it over by throwing the onus of the blame upon you.

On a careful review of the entire circumstances of the case, and duly considering the positive orders of the relieving officer, that you were not to consider Hopkins as a patient of the Union, we cannot but agree that you were entirely free from censure, and, in fact, treated her with the greatest kindness and humanity.

W. P. BROOKES, M.D., &c., Surgeon to District No. 2;

WILLIAM GREGORY, Surgeon to District No. 3;

WILLIAM DALTON, Surgeon to District No. 4;

FREDERICK HYETT, Surgeon to District No. 1.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted members of the College, at the meeting of the Court of Examiners, on the 17th instant—viz., Messrs. Frederick Wilkinson, Upper Canada; George Bellasis Masfen, Stafford; James Shorto, Christchurch, Hants; Henry Haden, Sedgley, Stafford; Sarkies Michael Shircore, Calcutta; John Sebastian Helmcken, London; Robert Laycock, Bramley, near Leeds; Horatio George Martelli, Army, Chatham; Matthew Coleman, Cape Coast Castle, West Africa; Frederick Arthur Willington, Balsall, Warwickshire; James Bailey, Wednesbury, Staffordshire; and William Thomas Alexander, Royal Navy.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.—Essalad Effendi, the Turkish poet, and author of several works, which found great favour with the Sultan, lately died, leaving a considerable fortune, out of which he bequeathed 250,000 francs for rendering the streets of Constantinople more healthy, and for the sanitary improvement of that capital generally, and the remainder of his property to Smyrna, his native town, for the same laudable purpose.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—It is currently reported that Professor Simpson is about to follow the example set by Professor Syme, and to remove from Edinburgh to London. It is also rumoured that Dr. Rigby has resigned, or is about to resign, the lectureship on midwifery at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, to make way for Dr. Simpson. At all events, candidates, pupils of the hospital, are in the field for the expected vacancy; but it is probable that matters have been arranged beforehand for the translation of Dr. Simpson from Edinburgh to this metropolis.

MARISCHAL COLLEGE, ABERDEEN.—Lord Robertson has been elected rector to this university for the current year. The other candidate brought forward to oppose his lordship was Mr. Benjamin Disraeli, M.P. It is stated that the inaugural address to the students will be delivered by Lord Robertson, before the expiration of the present session.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—The anniversary meeting for the election of officers, the awarding of medals, and other business, was held on the 7th instant, at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, the President in the chair. The following were declared office-bearers for the ensuing session:—President: Mr. Hancock. Vice-Presidents: Dr. Clutterbuck, Dr. Chowne, Mr. Hilton, Mr. Dendy. Treasurer: Mr. Clifton. Librarian: Mr. Harrison. Secretaries in Ordinary: Dr. Smiles, Mr. Barlow. Secretary for Foreign Correspondence: Dr. Davidson. Councillors: Mr. Headland, Mr. Eales, Mr. Linnecar, Dr. Garrod, Mr. Middleton, Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Pilcher, Mr. Stedman, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Clarke, Dr. Thompson, Mr. A. Fisher, Mr. Hird, Dr. Copland, Dr. Waller, Mr. Hooper, Dr. Bennett, Dr. L. Stewart, and Mr. Holding. Fellow to deliver the Oration, 1849, Dr. Willshire. Subjects for the Fothergillian Medal, 1849: On the Influence of Civilization on Health and Disease; 1850, On Tetanus.

Mr. HIRD afterwards delivered the Oration. At the opening of his address, the orator paid a high compliment to the memory of the illustrious persons who had preceded him in the discharge of his honourable duty, and availed himself of the opportunity of portraying the great advantages arising to the members of the profession from associations of a like character to that of the "parent medical society of the metropolis of the world." The proceedings of the Society during the past year were stated to have been equally fruitful in important discussions and practical results, as any that preceded it since its foundation. These observations were followed by a comprehensive view of the new discoveries in medical and